S8895-1-P

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 27 No. 8 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics August, 1990

Trend Setters

	May'90	Jun'90
Wyoming		
Labor Force	243,954	248,873
Employment	231,411	239,287
Unemployment	12,543	9,586
Rate (Raw)	5.1	3.9
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	4.4
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.90	$12.47
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.6	55.3
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.46	$13.43
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.3	43.8
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	129.2	129.9
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.4	+4.7

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

July U.S. Unemployment Up at 5.5 Percent

National unemployment, after hovering in the 5.0 - 5.4 percent range for the past 21 months, went to 5.5 percent in July. This was the highest unemployment since August, 1988, and compares to 5.2 percent in June. The non-farm jobs lost over the month, with the rise in unemployment, at 219,000, were nearly all temporary Census workers and construction and manufacturing layoffs. Unemployment was up in July for both adult men and women, to 4.9 and 4.7 percent.

Total national employment in July, at 118 million was up only 517,000 or 0.4 percent over the year. This reflects a substantial slowdown in new job growth.

Wyoming June Unemployment at 4.4 Percent

The encouraging springtime upturn in Wyoming's employment situation turned into a record June monthly drop in unemployment. The number of unemployed in the state fell for the third month in a row in June, the end of the second quarter. The 9,586 unemployed in June was down about a quarter (24 percent) from May, and was down a third (33 percent) from a year ago.

The June seasonally adjusted rate registered 4.4 percent, well below the U.S. rate of 5.2 percent. This drop in the estimate followed the 5.3 percent unemployment rate in May. May was the first month in almost two years that Wyoming posted the same rate as the nation.

The unadjusted rate for June in Wyoming was 3.9 percent, the lowest for the month since 1981. This compares to 5.1 and 5.8 percent last month and last year.

State Worker Count Up Over Three Percent From May and Year Ago

The Wyoming June monthly unemployment drop was accompanied by an equally impressive gain in new job hires. It appears that the statewide Centennial Celebration and Grand Teton and Yellowstone Park attractions persuaded a near record number of vacationers to "Find Themselves in Wyoming." In fact, the Yellowstone National Park June gate count at 526,000, was up 11.3 percent from a year ago, according to Park officials.

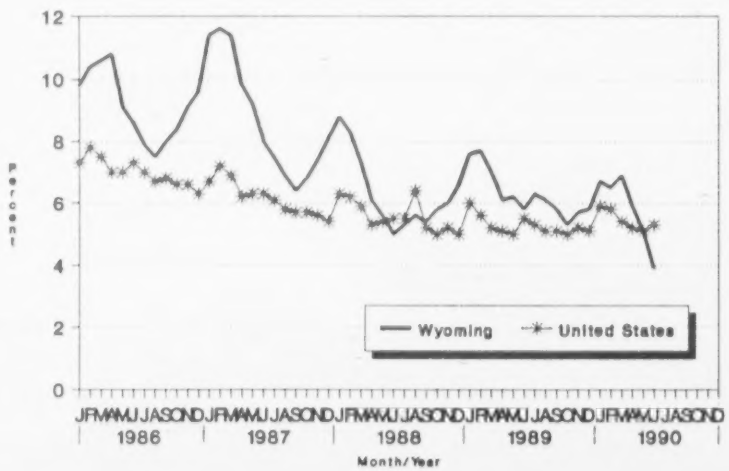
Indeed, Research and Planning's June establishment survey indicated that hotels and other lodging places were up an impressive 4,100 jobs over the month, a gain of 61 percent. Retail trade added an estimated 2,700 jobs.

Over the year, as well as the month, retail trade and services posted the greatest gain in jobs, according to the establishment survey. The remaining industries were all about the same or below year ago levels.

Park and Teton County Employment Up 6,800 From May

Park and Teton counties accounted for the lion's share of the statewide newly employed persons, a gain of almost 7,900 over the month. The two counties had a seasonal increase of 6,800 more persons working in June than May. Yellowstone Park employment is included in Park and Teton counties.

Unemployment Rate, Wyoming and the U.S.
Civilian Unadjusted
1986 - 1990


12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Percent
Wyoming
United States
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
Month/Year

Jackson Hole Unemployment at 1.2 Percent

Teton County had the greatest labor force gain in June, up over 1,100, and an unemployment rate of only 1.2 percent, lower than any state. This tied an all time record low for the county, set in June, 1989.

The rest of the State

The highest unemployment, at 5.6 percent in Sweetwater County, was barely above the June U.S. unadjusted rate of 5.3 percent. Laramie and Natrona counties registered unemployment of 3.3 and 4.3 percent.

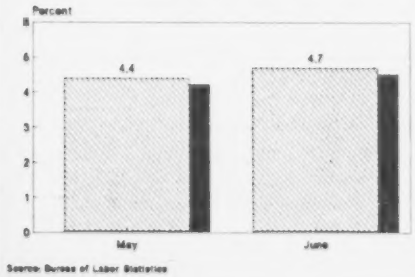
State Sugar Beet Weeding Completed

A peak number of almost three thousand migrant seasonal farmworkers worked in the beet fields in Wyoming, in July. Although some workers are local, most come from Texas, California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and other states.

In spite of the increased use of mechanical thinners, hand labor is still widely used to hoe, hoe trim and weed fields. The state has four sugar beet areas; Torrington, Worland, Cody and Riverton. Employers have to meet certain federal guidelines in regard to housing and sanitation.

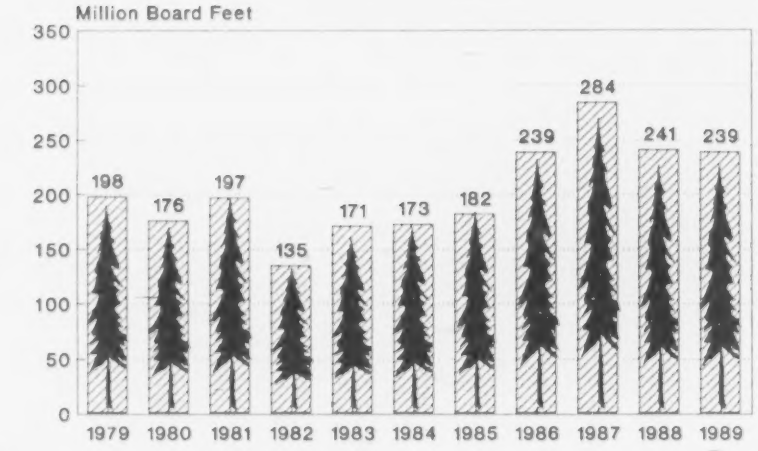
Weather conditions have been favorable in most areas and a bumper crop is expected. Wages were unchanged from last year and ranged from $25 to $35 per acre, in most cases, depending on how weedy the fields were. On an hourly rate, this is approximately $4.50 to $5.00 per hour.

Consumer Price Index
Annual Percent Change
All Urban



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wyoming Lumber Production
1979 - 1989



Source: Western Wood Products Assoc.

Wyoming Lumber Production Declines

According to information presented in the Western Wood Production Association's *1989 Statistical Yearbook of the Western Lumber Industry*, Wyoming's lumber production declined for the second consecutive year. The state's production fell from 284 million board feet (MBF) in 1987 to 241 MBF in 1988 and 239 MBF in 1989. The state saw its lowest production in recent years in 1982, a scant 135 MBF.

Despite the decline in production, the estimated wholesale value of Wyoming's lumber rose to a record $64.9 million in 1989. For 1988 the estimated value was $63.4 million and for 1982 the estimated value was $27.1 million.

During 1989 Wyoming's forest products industry saw employment increasing slightly from 1,410 employees in 1988 to 1,435 in 1989. This industry accounts for approximately 0.8 percent of the state's total employment.

Most of Wyoming's lumber is sold to markets in the midwest or to parts of the Southeast or South Central United States. Wyoming exports little, if any, of its lumber overseas. Ponderosa pine accounted for the largest share of the timber cut, 36.6 percent, while lodgepole pine accounted for another 26.0 percent.

Albany, Converse, Crook, Platte and Weston counties as a group saw their production remain steady, producing 69 MBF in both 1988 and 1989. The Carbon, Johnson, Park and Sheridan group saw an increase in lumber production of 24 MBF over-the-year, from 113 MBF to 137 MBF. The group of Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette and Uinta saw a dramatic decline in production going from 59 MBF in 1988 to 33 MBF in 1989.

Hospital Highlights

- In 1986, Wyoming ranked 44th in the U.S. with 32 hospitals. California had the most with 572, Delaware the fewest with only 13.
- Wyoming ranked 11th in hospital beds per 100,000 population with 631 in 1986. The U.S. averaged 532 per 100,000 people that same year.
- In 1988, Wyoming ranked 39th with a average daily room charge of $193. The U.S. average was $253.
- Wyoming ranked 49th in occupancy with only 56.6 percent of the beds filled.

Source: *1989 Statistical Abstract of the United States*, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Occupational Employment Statistics - Wyoming Hospitals

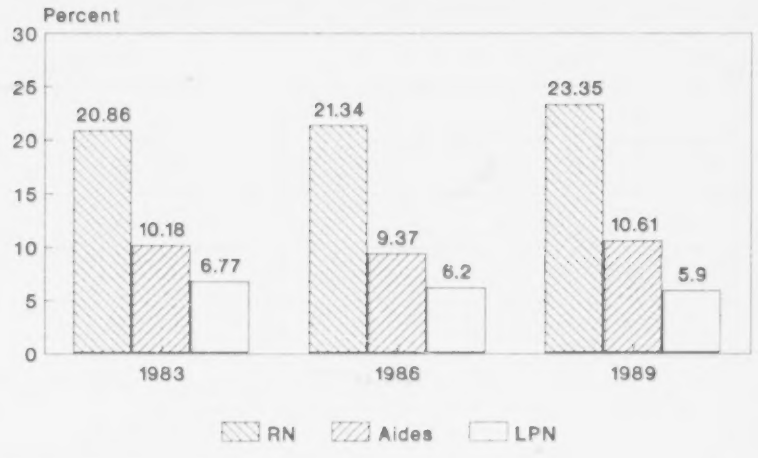
Every three years the Research and Planning Section surveys Wyoming Hospitals to determine their occupational staffing patterns. The results of the 1989 survey are now complete. Employment at Wyoming private and county hospitals was estimated at 6,425 for April of 1989, that compares to 7,100 in 1986 and 6,140 in 1983. For 1989 there was employment in the following major occupational groups: 405 employees working as managers and officers; 3,085 working in professional and technical occupations; 20 working in sales occupations; 995 working in clerical; 1,700 working in service occupations; 15 working in agriculture, forestry, or fishery occupations (working as gardeners and groundskeepers); and 205 working in production and maintenance occupations.

The top three employing occupations at hospitals are, as would be expected, nursing related. Registered nurses accounted for 23.35 percent of the total employment in this industry in 1989. Nurses aides and/or orderlies accounted for 10.61 percent and licensed practical nurses accounted for 5.90 percent. Survey data from 1983, 1986, and 1989 point to a trend of increasing use of registered nurses in the hospital setting and fewer licensed practical nurses. As a percent of total hospital employment, registered nurses have increased while licensed practical nurses have decline. Nurses aides appeared to be on the decline from 1983 to 1986, but rebounded in 1989.

Since 1983, some of the major occupational groups have changed as well. Professional and technical occupations have fluctuated, going down in 1986 and back up again in 1989. Employment in clerical occupations at Wyoming hospitals has been on the rise. As a percent of total employment, clerical occupations went from 13.60 percent in 1983 to 14.93 percent in 1986 and 15.49 percent in 1989. Managers and Officers employment has changed little.

The Wyoming Occupational Employment Statistics Unit would like to thank Wyoming hospitals for their cooperation in responding to this survey. This information will be used to produce projections of occupations. These occupational projections will assist career seekers in making correct choices for future employment opportunities. It will provide Wyoming employers with a workforce that is trained for the work of the future.

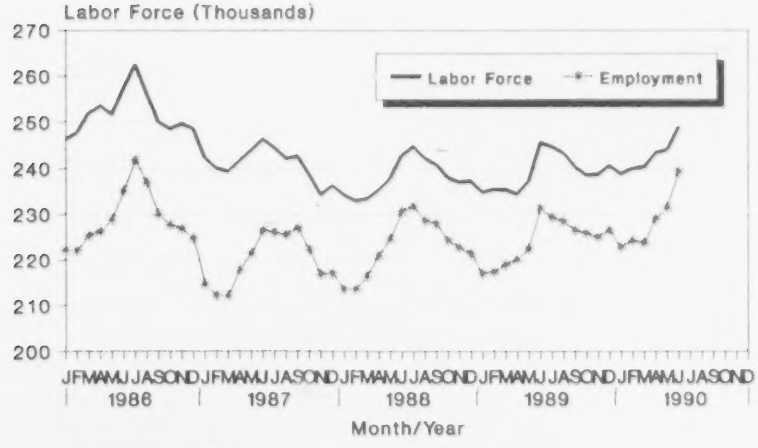
Wyoming Nursing Occupations
Percent of Total Hospital Employment



Source: WY Occupational Employment

Wyoming Labor Force and Employment

1986 - 1990



Scale does not begin at zero.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, BLS and Research & Analysis.

Consumer Price Index

(1982-1984 = 100)
All Urban

	June 1990	Annual % change
All Items	129.9	4.7
Food & Beverage	131.7	5.4
Housing	128.3	4.4
Entertainment	131.9	4.5
Apparel & Upkeep	123.3	4.7
Transportation	118.2	2.0
Medical	161.9	9.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Table 1

INDUSTRY	JUNE 1990 [1]	MAY 1990 [2]	JUNE 1989 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	248,873	243,954	245,519	2.0	1.4
Unemployment	9,586	12,543	14,231	-23.6	-32.6
Employed Labor Force	239,287	231,411	231,288	3.4	3.5
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seasonally Adjusted*	3.9% 4.4%*	5.1% 5.3%*	5.8% 6.6%*	N/A	N/A
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adjusted*	5.3% 5.2%*	5.1% 5.3%*	5.5% 5.3%*	N/A	N/A
HOURS & EARNINGS [4]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 689.59	$ 664.54	$ 645.81	3.8	6.8
Average Weekly Hours	55.3	44.6	44.6	24.0	24.0
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.47	$ 14.90	$ 14.48	-16.3	-13.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	9,972	13,925	13,328	-28.4	-25.2
a. Initial	1,533	1,906	2,044	-19.6	-25.0
Weeks Compensated	7,066	11,967	10,350	-41.0	-31.7
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,064,648	$ 1,832,916	$ 1,621,041	-41.9	-34.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 150.02	$ 152.93	$ 155.36	-1.9	-3.4
Unemployment Insurance State Covered Jobs [3]	187,257	178,547	185,097	4.9	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)	1.2%	1.6%	1.7%	N/A	N/A
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES					
Total Applications Received During Month	4,087	4,394	4,532	-7.0	-9.8
Total Openings Received	6,519	4,035	5,382	61.6	21.1
Individual Placements	2,644	1,893	3,108	39.7	-14.9
Placement Transactions	4,589	3,006	4,809	52.7	-4.6
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS [4]					
Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 588.23	$ 582.82	$ 555.08	0.9	6.0
Average Weekly Hours	43.8	43.3	42.6	1.2	2.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.43	$ 13.46	$ 13.03	-0.2	3.1
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84=100	129.9	129.2	124.1	0.5	4.7
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84=100	114.2	114.5	112.9	-0.3	1.2
Food and Beverage 1982-84=100	131.7	131.1	124.9	0.5	5.4

1 Preliminary. 2 Revised. 3 Not benchmarked to current population survey. 4 Estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 5 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates. N/A Not Appropriate

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE 2 *(Prepared in cooperation with U S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
COUNTY	JUN 1990	MAY 1990	JUN 1989	CHANGE MAY-JUN	% CHANGE JUN-JUN	JUN 1990	MAY 1990	JUN 1989	JUN 1990	MAY 1990	JUN 1989
Statewide	248,873	243,954	245,519	2.0	1.4	9,586	12,543	14,231	3.9	5.1	5.8
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									4.4	5.3	6.6
Albany	15,917	16,863	15,111	-5.6	5.3	346	536	491	2.2	3.2	3.2
Big Horn	5,456	5,604	5,252	-2.6	3.9	256	326	316	4.7	5.8	6.0
Campbell	15,779	15,900	15,780	-0.8	0.0	789	1,185	1,250	5.0	7.5	7.9
Carbon	8,394	8,082	8,248	3.9	1.8	353	421	542	4.2	5.2	6.6
Converse	4,785	4,978	5,244	-3.9	-8.8	229	332	385	4.8	6.7	7.3
Crook	2,871	2,773	3,052	3.5	-5.9	80	131	159	2.8	4.7	5.2
Fremont	16,449	17,304	16,241	-4.9	1.3	845	1,168	1,184	5.1	6.7	7.3
Goshen	6,427	6,493	6,273	-1.0	2.5	188	262	217	2.9	4.0	3.5
Hot Springs	3,121	3,175	2,989	-1.7	4.4	96	141	115	3.1	4.4	3.8
Johnson	4,194	3,912	4,029	7.2	4.1	133	193	201	3.2	4.9	5.0
Laramie	37,657	37,809	37,096	-0.4	1.5	1,253	1,807	1,977	3.3	4.8	5.3
Lincoln	5,797	5,700	6,049	1.7	-4.2	301	344	507	5.2	6.0	8.4
Natrona	31,002	31,362	31,198	-1.1	-0.6	1,331	1,861	2,187	4.3	5.9	7.0
Niobrara	1,571	1,552	1,543	1.2	1.8	43	42	34	2.7	2.7	2.2
Park	15,782	13,742	15,395	14.8	2.5	524	584	791	3.3	4.2	5.1
Platte	4,369	4,407	4,518	-0.9	-3.3	229	171	264	5.2	3.9	5.8
Sheridan	13,630	13,477	13,242	1.1	2.9	427	631	679	3.1	4.7	5.1
Sublette	3,267	3,120	2,991	4.7	9.2	86	95	137	2.6	3.0	4.6
Sweetwater	19,534	19,371	19,347	0.8	1.0	1,099	997	1,436	5.6	5.1	7.4
Teton	15,245	10,597	14,132	43.9	7.9	179	191	175	1.2	1.8	1.2
Uinta	10,042	9,865	10,214	1.8	-1.7	465	649	787	4.6	6.6	7.7
Washakie	4,461	4,462	4,398	0.0	1.4	182	262	201	4.1	5.9	4.6
Weston	3,125	3,409	3,176	-8.3	-1.6	155	216	195	5.0	6.3	6.1
United States									5.3	5.1	5.5
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.2	5.3	5.3

The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1988 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	JUN 1990 Total	MAY 1990 Total	JUN 1989 Total	MAY 1990 to JUN 1990	JUN 1990 to JUN 1989
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	204.7	196.1	204.0	4.4 %	0.3 %
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	38.1	36.3	38.0	5.0	0.3
Mining	17.7	17.1	17.6	3.5	0.6
Coal Mining	4.7	4.6	4.7	2.2	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.1	7.8	8.1	3.9	0.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	4.1	3.9	4.0	5.1	2.5
Construction	11.4	10.6	11.4	7.6	0.0
General Building Contractors	1.9	1.7	1.9	11.8	0.0
Heavy Construction	4.8	4.5	4.8	6.7	0.0
Special Trade Construction	4.7	4.4	4.7	6.8	0.0
Manufacturing	9.0	8.6	9.0	4.7	0.0
Durable Goods	4.2	4.0	4.2	5.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.4	0.0
Printing & Publishing	1.8	1.7	1.8	5.9	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	166.6	159.8	166.0	4.3	0.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.7	14.4	14.6	2.1	0.7
Transportation	8.9	8.7	8.9	2.3	0.0
Railroad Transportation	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	-3.6
Trucking & Warehousing	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.6	2.2
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
Trade	47.6	44.9	47.0	6.0	1.3
Wholesale Trade	7.4	7.4	7.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	40.2	37.5	39.6	7.2	1.5
Building Materials & Garden Supplies	1.5	1.4	1.4	7.1	7.1
General Merchandise Stores	5.1	4.5	4.8	13.3	6.3
Food Stores	5.9	5.7	5.8	3.5	1.7
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	6.3	6.1	6.3	3.3	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.4	1.3	1.4	7.7	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	1.0	0.9	0.9	11.1	11.1
Eating & Drinking Places	14.9	13.6	14.9	9.6	0.0
Miscellaneous Retail	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	0.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 3 (Cont.) NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS JUN 1990 [2] Total	MAY 1990 [3] Total	JUN 1989 Total	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. JUN 1990 to MAY 1990	JUN 1990 to JUN 1989
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7.4	7.2	7.5	2.8	-1.3
Finance	4.0	4.0	4.2	0.0	-4.8
Insurance	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Other *	1.8	1.6	1.7	12.5	5.9
Services	41.4	36.5	40.9	13.4	1.2
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	10.8	6.7	10.7	61.2	0.9
Personal Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Business Services	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0
Automotive & Miscellaneous Repair Services	2.6	2.4	2.6	8.3	0.0
Amusements & Recreational Services including Motion Pictures	2.9	2.5	2.9	16.0	0.0
Health Services	7.8	7.7	7.7	1.3	1.3
Legal Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Social Services	3.0	3.1	3.0	-3.2	0.0
Other *	8.3	8.1	8.0	2.5	3.8
Government	55.5	56.8	56.0	-2.3	-0.9
Total Federal Government	7.8	7.2	7.8	8.3	0.0
Total State Government	13.3	13.6	13.9	-2.2	-4.3
Total Local Government	34.4	36.0	34.3	-4.4	0.3
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.6	28.3	28.1	1.1 %	1.8 %
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.7	5.7	5.5	0.0	3.6
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3
Mining	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Construction	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	22.9	22.6	22.6	1.3	1.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.7	1.6	5.9	12.5
Transportation	1.1	1.0	1.0	10.0	10.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Trade	7.9	7.8	7.9	1.3	0.0
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.8	5.7	5.8	1.8	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	6.5	6.5	6.4	0.0	1.6
Personal & Business Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Health Services	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	5.3
Government	5.3	5.2	5.3	1.9	0.0

1 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2 Subject to revision. 3 Revised figures.
** This data is not certified by BLS for publication.*

RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO
Wyoming Department of Employment
Research and Planning
P. O. BOX 2760
CASPER, WYOMING 82602

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
LAB 449

U.S.MAIL

W Y O M I N G

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** is published by the Research and Planning, Wyoming Department of Employment.

- **Frank Galeotos, Director**
- **Tom Gallagher, Manager, Research and Planning**
- **Gordon Wolford, Principal Statistician**
- **Michael J. Paris, Principal Statistician**

Please send questions, comments or address changes to Michael J. Paris, Editor, **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning, P. O. Box 2760, Casper, Wyoming, 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3642.

Material in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced without special permission. We request, however, that statements not be quoted out of context or data presented in such a way as to mislead and that source credit be given.

ISSN 0512-4409